

Thankfulness is an Attitude of the Heart

Being thankful is an attitude of the heart. In the New Covenant (NC) we don't have instructions that give us processes or ceremonies to show we are thankful to God. Despite that, religious people will say grace before a meal – we used to do it in our home. Similarly, Christian parents teach their children to say “thankyou” and will not proceed with further interaction until the child says it. They do the same with ‘please’ (Which by the way is short for “If it pleases you”, not “This is my magic word to get what I want”).

Repeating: Being thankful is an attitude of the heart. God is constantly looking at our heart. He's interested in what's in our heart because out of our heart and its attitudes we speak, we interact and react, and respond to everything around us, including him. We must understand that to be thankful, it must come from our heart, to be true gratitude.

If we operate in any form of thanksgiving, being it ‘saying grace’ or whatever, for the purpose of making sure we don't offend God or to ‘twist his arm’ so we can get him to be nice to us and give us what we want, then it's not thankfulness at all – it's manipulating him.

To give an understanding of what I mean by thankfulness from the heart, I've had many experiences with high school students at Christian colleges which can serve as an example. When I catch them out for doing something wrong, they will usually say, “Sorry”. I then check them out by saying, “Are you really sorry?” This is how I find out what's really in their heart. I've only had a ‘handful’ of students reply, “Yes, I am”. Most respond by saying, “No”. I then question them, “You only said sorry so you wouldn't get into trouble, didn't you?” They normally reply, “Yep. That's correct”. These students saying “sorry” was not from the heart. They said “sorry” in the hope they'll miss out on being punished for what I caught them doing wrong.

Vis-a-vis, thankfulness. It's the heart that matters.

In the Kingdom, it's all about the heart. Jesus taught on this fact.

So, whatever we do or say, God's position is based on his assessment of our heart. If we desire to be thankful, it has to come from the heart to be righteous. You'll know when it comes from the heart because it comes freely, joyfully, lovingly, and without any ulterior motive or agenda attached to it. And, it's not a religious activity.

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